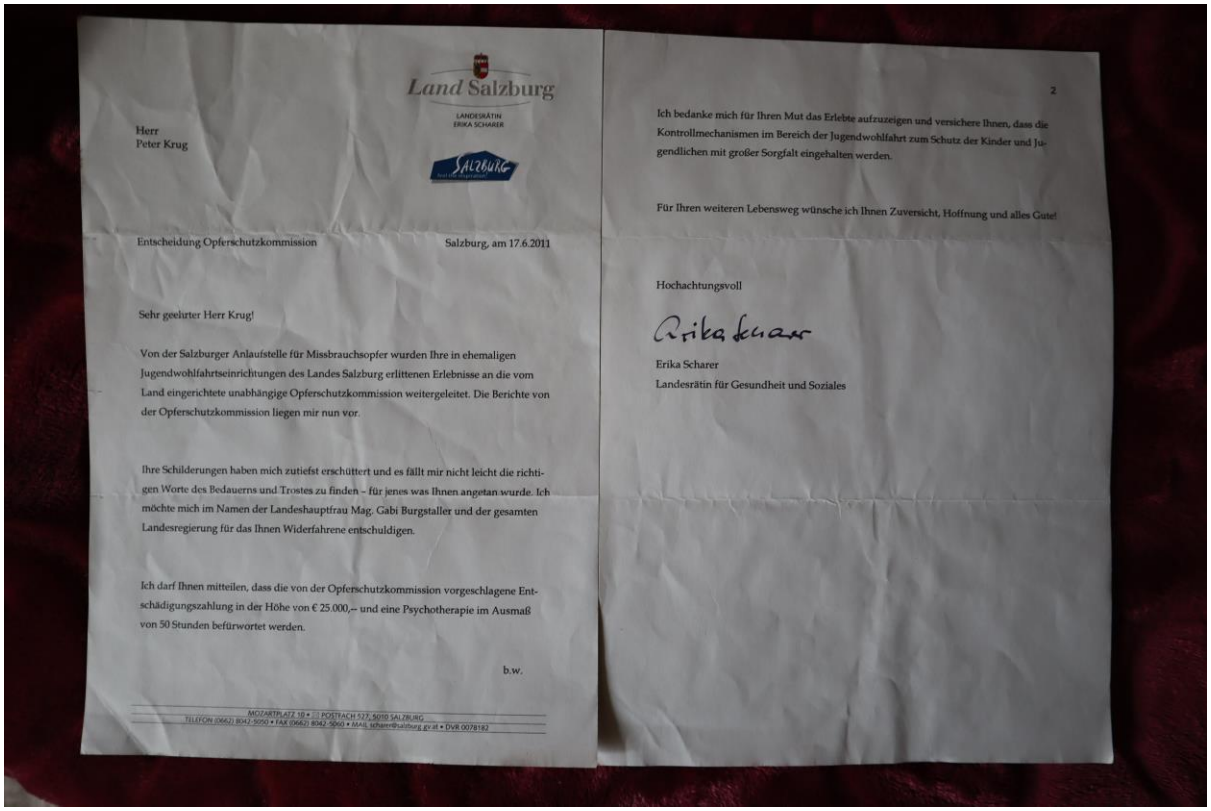

Land Salzburg

LANDESRÄTIN
ERIKA SCHARER

Herr
Peter Krug

Entscheidung Opferschutzkommission Salzburg, am 17.6.2011

Sehr geehrter Herr Krug!

Von der Salzburger Anlaufstelle für Missbrauchsopfer wurden Ihre in ehemaligen Jugendwohlfahrtseinrichtungen des Landes Salzburg erlittenen Erlebnisse an die vom Land eingerichtete unabhängige Opferschutzkommission weitergeleitet. Die Berichte von der Opferschutzkommission liegen mir nun vor.

Ihre Schilderungen haben mich zutiefst erschüttert und es fällt mir nicht leicht die richtigen Worte des Bedauerns und Trostes zu finden – für jenes was Ihnen angetan wurde. Ich möchte mich im Namen der Landeshauptfrau Mag. Gabi Burgstaller und der gesamten Landesregierung für das Ihnen Widerfahrene entschuldigen.

Ich darf Ihnen mitteilen, dass die von der Opferschutzkommission vorgeschlagene Entschädigungszahlung in der Höhe von € 25.000,– und eine Psychotherapie im Ausmaß von 50 Stunden befürwortet werden.

b.w.

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Ich bedanke mich für Ihren Mut das Erlebte aufzuzeigen und versichere Ihnen, dass die Kontrollmechanismen im Bereich der Jugendwohlfahrt zum Schutz der Kinder und Jugendlichen mit großer Sorgfalt eingehalten werden.

Für Ihren weiteren Lebensweg wünsche ich Ihnen Zuversicht, Hoffnung und alles Gute!

Hochachtungsvoll

Erika Scharer

Erika Scharer
Landesrätin für Gesundheit und Soziales

The Cost of Silence: Why €25,000 Doesn't Compensate for the Systemic Failure of the Youth Welfare Office. - Summary by Peter Siegfried Krug On June 17, 2011, I received an official letter from the State of Salzburg, signed by the then State Councillor Erika Scharer. It was the result of a long struggle with the independent Victims' Protection Commission, intended to acknowledge the suffering I endured within the youth welfare system. The document contained an apology on behalf of the entire state government and a promise of compensation in the amount of €25,000, as well as 50 hours of psychotherapy. To society, this may sound like restitution. For me and other victims, it serves as clear evidence of systemic failure—not through what the letter contained, but through what it painfully omitted. The Absence of Responsibility As the scholarly work "Stamped and Delivered" by Bauer, Robert Hoffmann, and Christina Kubek demonstrates, the problem in Salzburg after 1945 was not the random misconduct of individuals, but a structural failure: The youth welfare office and those in charge knew about it and turned a blind eye. The official letter from 2011 fails to address this core of guilt. Instead, the letter follows a clear logic: Monetizing Suffering: The system focuses on a one-time financial compensation to offset individual losses. The comparatively small sum is completely disproportionate to the massive damage to the fundamental basis of life and the immense, lifelong effort required to rebuild it. It is an attempt to "tick off" a complex, structural error with an abstract number, without acknowledging the underlying responsibility. The Illusion of Control: The assurance that control mechanisms will be meticulously maintained in the future negates the fact that these mechanisms fundamentally and deliberately failed in the 1960s and 1970s. The system

apologizes for the consequences, but not for its own active participation in the abuse through ignorance and turning a blind eye. Strength in Contrast: Rebuilding Despite Destruction The striking contradiction between official compensation and systemic failure becomes apparent when one compares the €25,000 to the reality of a toddler in the Salzburg Itzling children's home. The experiences there were not simply "accidents," but rather a systematic destruction of the child's psyche: Isolation and Torture: Locking the child in the cold cellar or the deliberate psychological terror (devilish tales) by the caregivers was only possible because the system looked the other way. The Learned Silence: The worst consequence of this systematic cruelty was the internalization of the pain. The child learned: "I behaved inconspicuously and was utterly miserable." This led to the psychological core of the trauma, which the official report ignores: the inability to speak. The true balance of failure, however, is not revealed in the breakdown itself, but in the effort made to counter it. To avert the looming total destruction, I, as a child and young adult, had to create intense, creative substitute worlds: Retreating into solitude and concentrating on creative activities were the only ways to avoid further wounding. A strong connection to nature and animals became a substitute for the total loss in the human realm. Escape into chess offered a controlled, logical universe with clear rules, where the chaotic, threatening outside world could be shut out—a structure that later led to the FIDE Championship. This self-created survival system was simultaneously a defense mechanism that later led to misunderstandings, for example, in encounters with psychologists. Because the topic of victims of abuse in institutions was completely taboo at the time, they could hardly grasp the profound trauma. My withdrawal and my inability to share my experiences without adequate language were interpreted as a lack of understanding. The true and long overdue compensation is therefore not monetary, but analytical and public: breaking the silence, naming the truth of the systemic failure with scientific and personal rigor, and thus preventing the mistakes made against me from being repeated against future generations. Hallein, November 21, 2025 (Author: Peter Siegfried Krug) https://archive.org/details/@peterkrugaussalzburg